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Major News Releases and Speeches

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U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Governmental and Public Affairs

Remarks prepared for delivery by John B. Crowell, Jr., Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment, to the 47th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, Portland, Ore., March 29, 1982.

Fish And Wildlife: A Fuller Dimension To Improved Resource Management

It's nice to be back in Portland, and to speak again in my own neck of the woods. It's a special pleasure to come back here for this important conference, and to participate in this opening session. I welcome this opportunity to discuss our efforts to improve resource management on the national forests, and how our major thrusts will affect the fish and wildlife resource in particular.

It has been a little more than a year since President Reagan was inaugurated, and a little less time than that since I was confirmed and sworn in as assistant secretary of agriculture. We have moved to establish and implement some changed emphases in our resource management programs. So, by now there should be little mistake about our intent to improve natural resource management on the national forests. We intend to increase the productivity of these resources without corresponding increases in federal appropriations. We intend to generate increased receipts to the U.S. Treasury by emphasizing revenue producing activities such as timber management, and oil, gas and minerals development outside of wilderness areas. We intend that the users pay more of the cost of services that traditionally have been subsidized or provided free of charge. We intend to foster compatibility among resource uses, by avoiding land management practices which promote single uses to the detriment of other multiple uses. Those are our major thrusts for improving the way national forest resources are managed.

Many of our initiatives in these areas are well known. Some have created controversy, and critics have greeted a few with a high level of rhetoric which has left the public with little understanding of the true dimensions of our programs for the national forests. I hope this panel,

and this conference, can provide some understanding of where we truly stand with our management objectives for the national forests.

Our priorities are quite clear—more fully to use the timber resources of the national forests for this generation, to manage the timber so that future generations can enjoy even greater bounty, and to encourage development of the timber, oil, gas and mineral resources which are so plentiful on the public lands. Those priorities are precisely where they must be, given the overwhelming need to reduce the federal budget, to get America's economy once again on-track, and to get Americans back to work.

Additionally, our initiatives in resource management are directed at the broad array of resources on the national forests—not timber, minerals, oil, and gas alone. We are working to improve integrated management of all the forest's resources—fish and wildlife, rangelands, recreation, and wilderness together. Our fish and wildlife programs are a very important part of that effort. Consistent with this, our 1983 fish and wildlife budget proposal for the Forest Service reflects a million-dollar increase above the 1981 appropriation—making it the only major federal fish and wildlife program to remain relatively unscathed in budget reductions. I have also established a fish and wildlife committee—made up of some of the top fish and wildlife experts in the U.S. Department of Agriculture—to advise me and to help me ensure a wise fish and wildlife policy integrated with the multiple use requirements of the national forests. The fish and wildlife resource is a major consideration.

Old-Growth

One of my major initiatives has been to speed up harvest of the slow-growing or decadent, overmature timber stands in the Pacific Northwest—the old-growth. Simply put, this old-growth offers the greatest immediate potential for increasing timber harvest from the national forests and for meeting the nation's wood needs in the short-term—over the next 20 to 40 years. This can be done at reasonable cost—so that returns to the Treasury are likely to be high—while meeting multiple use needs while increasing the productivity of the national forests as well.

That said, let me make three points about this initiative:

First, we recognize that these older timber stands provide optimum or preferred habitat for several wildlife species—as well as aesthetic values—and that we therefore need to retain an old-growth component for multiple use purposes.

Second, we aren't going to be "liquidating" the national forests through this effort, as some are charging—we don't plan to come even close to cutting all of the old-growth stands in the Pacific Northwest.

And third, we intend to manage old-growth components on the national forests in areas large enough and well-enough distributed to sustain viable populations of species that need old-growth habitat.

We Will Consider Fish And Wildlife Habitat Needs

We intend to recognize fish and wildlife habitat requirements in developing forest management prescriptions for the old-growth. For example, we are identifying and managing habitat to meet the recovery objectives of the bald eagle—habitat which includes an old-growth component. Having started here in the Pacific Northwest, and now nationwide, we are identifying the relationships between wildlife habitat and other forest values, to better predict the consequences of management alternatives on fish and wildlife. That will equip forest managers for making better-informed and balanced resource management decisions, and for avoiding or mitigating the negative consequences for wildlife and fish.

One of the problems we face in doing this for many wildlife species is that we don't know enough about the habitat role of old-growth stands, or whether younger stands can help fulfill this role. We are trying to address this problem with a 5-year research program for managing old-growth with wildlife habitats. This program will involve forests west of the Cascades, from Canada to Northern California. It will identify plants and animals which depend on old growth or find their optimum habitat there, and try to determine their biological requirements. It will describe, inventory and classify old-growth ecosystems, and will evaluate different ways of managing old-growth stands.

This is an effort which involves the Forest Service and other federal agencies; the forestry and fish and game agencies of Oregon,

Washington and California; several universities; the forest industry; and several interested wildlife groups. We hope that this program will shortly provide the knowledge we need for informed, responsible management of the old-growth stands—management which can help us maintain viable populations of wildlife species, while integrating their additional habitat needs with sound silvicultural practices.

We Aren't Running Out Of Old-Growth

Let's turn to my second point—that we aren't going to liquidate all the old-growth forests. There are 4.5 million acres of commercial forest land on the west-side national forests of Oregon and Washington which have timber stands over rotation age. These acres make up nearly two-thirds of the commercial forest land on those west-side forests, and their timber is a valuable resource with great potential for the regional and national economy. Of those 4.5 million acres, 2.4 million acres are in stands over 250 years old, and from which less than 10 percent of the timber has been removed. That is about a quarter of the area of those national forests. On top of that, there's some old-growth on private lands, and on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. In spite of the clear need to accelerate harvest rates of the stands now over rotation age, it will take decades to work through this old-growth—and we plan to always retain an old-growth component.

In addition to the commercial old-growth already described, there's still a great deal more that's protected in research areas, in designated wilderness areas, and in national parks and similar forested areas which have been legislatively withdrawn from timber harvest. Olympic, Mount Rainier, North Cascades, Crater Lake and Redwoods National Parks all have large expanses of old-growth. In the national parks and national forests of the Pacific Northwest, there

are about 2.7 million acres of Douglas-fir forest cover in existing or proposed wilderness alone—and most of this is old-growth. All of this old growth on non-commercial lands will also help meet the habitat needs of wildlife species preferring late-successional forest cover. Altogether, we are in no danger of running out of old-growth, and never will be.

We Will Manage Old-Growth To Maintain Viable Wildlife Populations

My third point on the old-growth is that we will manage the wildlife as one of many important resources in these stands. The Forest Service is well along with forest planning under the requirements of the National Forest Management Act of 1976. As the Forest Service plans the management of each national forest, it will plan to retain and manage an old-growth component which—at a minimum—will be adequate to ensure viable populations of the species which need old-growth. The planning process will also test alternatives which retain amounts of old growth above that minimum. It will identify these alternative levels, not only for wildlife habitat, but for all the various values these stands provide—including timber. And it will evaluate the financial tradeoffs for each alternative. In that way, we can determine the best long-term approach for managing the old-growth.

We have recently proposed some changes in the regulations which govern this planning process on each of the national forests. Though most of our revisions have been editorial—reducing complexity, jargon, and redundancy—we have also used our experience with the process to make some substantive improvements. However, there has been some concern that our proposed changes will lead to forest plans which are designed to increase timber management at the expense of population viability for several wildlife or fish species.

This is not the case. What we are trying to do is to increase the land manager's flexibility in meeting fish and wildlife management objectives on the ground, and thereby do a better job of resource management. For example, the National Forest Management Act requires that the forest planning regulations "provide for diversity of plant and animal communities based on suitability and capability of the specific land area in order to meet overall multiple use objectives." In enacting this language, Congress intended that the habitat objectives would be established in the planning process, and then followed on the ground by land managers. However, the foggy wording of the existing planning regulations implies that forest managers cannot alter the habitat of existing species, and that the existing habitat is to be maintained regardless of the cost and of the benefits foregone. We have tried to

clarify this to conform with the law, and in order to ensure the land manager's flexibility to manage the land area for all resource values.

Had we not done this, it could become quite difficult to do anything on the national forests without appearing to violate the regulations in some form. Even to do nothing could appear to violate these regulations if it would result in successional changes in the plant community that are detrimental to any management indicator species.

For example, consider a management indicator species which requires early succession, such as the Roosevelt elk. Given the principles of natural succession—that young growth matures and eventually becomes old growth—our failure periodically to interrupt the results of this plant succession, as nature commonly does by fire, would adversely affect elk populations.

Yet, managing for the elk could diminish habitat for the spotted owl—another management indicator species. Either way would appear to violate the existing planning regulations.

That illustrates why these particular changes to the regulations were necessary. The revised regulations will still require that all planning alternatives, as a minimum, provide for retention and management of habitat sufficient to maintain viable populations of the wildlife. This constitutes direction that's still more explicit than the statute itself, and which is more specific in the protections afforded fish and wildlife.

Since we published these revised regulations for public comment, we have received some constructive suggestions on how they can be further improved, and we expect to receive more before the public comment period closes on April 23. Through the revised regulations, in whatever form they take, wildlife and fish considerations will remain an essential part of forest planning. The 1983 proposed budget for wildlife and fish confirms that.

Let's look at how this forest planning system might work with the northern spotted owl, which is representative of the many wildlife species that find optimum habitat in the old-growth. Current information tentatively indicates that owl pairs may need as much as 300 acres of old-growth around the nest, and perhaps another 700 acres of old-growth within 1-1/2 miles. This information also suggests that nesting sites should be less than 12 miles apart to ensure adequate distribution of adult birds.

Right now, on the National Forests of Oregon and Washington, we have enough old-growth to provide habitat for 1,365 pairs of owls on a nesting interval of 2 miles. In its draft regional plan, the Forest Service is proposing a goal to retain an old growth component sufficient to support at least 375 pairs of owls. And, through the planning process on each forest, it will evaluate alternatives which would retain and manage enough old-growth to sustain population levels well above that minimum. One part of this evaluation is an analysis of the financial tradeoffs in retaining this old-growth habitat.

Planners on the Siskiyou National Forest, for example, are testing alternatives which provide old-growth habitat sufficient to support owl populations ranging from a minimum of 31 pairs, up to 50 pairs. For each alternative, they have determined the average annual cost—in terms of the timber values foregone—when old-growth habitat is set aside.

For example, preliminary data indicates the Siskiyou can retain enough old-growth for 31 pairs of owls at a fairly reasonable opportunity cost, primarily because the forest can sustain 23 owl-pairs in designated wilderness—where the calculations assume no timber values. Supporting a higher population level of 40 pairs of owls, however, would increase this opportunity cost substantially. On one of the forests east of the cascades, the planners have tentatively estimated that the average timber opportunity cost of providing habitat sufficient to support a maximum 12 pairs of owls, is more than \$100,000 per pair, annually.

Whatever population level is ultimately sustained, the habitat will be distributed throughout the existing range of the species, so that the owls can interact with others. Forest plans, once implemented, will be monitored to ensure that they are achieving the anticipated results, and to make whatever adjustments might be needed.

In practice, some of the planning alternatives considered by the national forest planning teams may call for more habitat for some selected species than exists now. For example, one forest plan alternative must address the long-term goals established through RPA—which, for fish and wildlife, call for significant increases in elk, anadromous fish and many other species. Correspondingly, some alternatives may provide less habitat than now exists. These alternatives

will be evaluated according to many different criteria, including their social and financial impacts, the goods and services they produce, and their overall protection and enhancement of the environment. As for how the fisheries and wildlife resource will fare in that sort of analysis, let me suggest that manipulating tree cover is usually too expensive to justify for wildlife purposes alone. We can do direct habitat improvement work, but biologists will buy more mileage for many wildlife species when the habitat management efforts for those species can be integrated with other resource programs.

For example, consider a management area on the Winema National Forest, near Klamath Falls, Ore. Last year, this area contained 16 bald eagle nests—seven of them active. There are also at least two pairs of spotted owls, some wetlands, habitat for several other wildlife species and significant timber values within the management area. It used to be that, for bald eagle nests, the silviculturists would draw a 300-acre circle around the nest, and stay out of it. But biologists know more about the eagle's habitat requirements now; they know the specific old-growth characteristics the eagles prefer.

So, the biologists and silviculturists on the Winema have devised a combination of silvicultural methods to sustain or increase the number of eagles on the area, maintain the habitat for spotted owls and other wildlife, protect the aesthetics and ensure perpetual yields of timber, too.

Though it's not accurate to say that "good timber management is always good wildlife management," let's admit that neither is it all negative. Whether timber management is good or bad for wildlife and fish depends a lot on how well the biologists and silviculturists can work together. Twenty years ago Robert H. Giles told this conference that "The time has come to face up to the fact that the harvest of wood, a forester's function, has greater influence on wildlife than any active technique available to the wildlifer. In one sale a forester can influence more cover over a longer time than a wildlife manager can create in a decade. The wildlifer, realizing the potentials of the wood harvest, must not only increase the effectiveness of his present practices, but must provide guidance for foresters so their efforts will not so strongly negate his efforts and can be made to complement them."

As I close, let me say that you can help—and we want your help—in our efforts to improve management on the national forests. Our priorities are clear, but our initiatives are directed at the broad array of resources on these forests. We are working to improve the integrated management of those resources together. Your help with the fish and wildlife resources can lend a fuller dimension to our efforts.

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Testimony

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Governmental and Public Affairs

Statement by John B. Crowell, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment before the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, April 1, 1982

Mr. Chairman And Members Of The Committee:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to present the administration's views on two bills, H.R. 9 and S. 1873, that would expand the national wilderness preservation system in the state of Florida and also include provisions regarding issuance of phosphate leases on the Osceola National Forest and two additional bills, S. 1138 and S. 1633, that would prohibit phosphate mining on the Osceola National Forest.

I will comment on the wilderness proposals and the phosphate lease provisions. The wilderness proposals outlined in H.R. 9 and S. 1873 include six new wildernesses totaling 47,980 acres and one 1,170-acre addition to an existing wilderness. The proposals are located on the three National Forests in Florida, the Apalachicola in the northwest part of the state, the Osceola in the northcentral part and the Ocala to the south.

Wilderness Designations

All seven wilderness proposals are roadless or undeveloped areas on national forest system lands in Florida that were included in the Second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation. We support the wildernesses proposed in H.R. 9 and S. 1873 except the Big Gum Swamp wilderness. We recommend that the Big Gum Swamp area not be designated as wilderness at this time. Applications are pending on phosphate preference right leases on about one quarter of the tract. Until the secretary of the interior determines whether the preference right leases should be issued and also provides a better idea of the location and value of the mineral deposits, we recommend deferral of this wilderness designation.

The proposed Mud Swamp/New River wilderness included in H.R. 9 and S. 1873 encompasses essentially the same area as considered during

RARE II except both bills also include a 2-1/2-mile corridor along the New River at the northwest corner of the area. We recommend that this corridor be excluded from the proposal because it is separated from the area by a frequently used forest road and concrete bridge. Furthermore, the 2 1/2-mile long, half-mile wide corridor, along the New River would be difficult to manage for wilderness purposes because of its elongated shape and lack of on-the-ground boundary features.

The Mud Swamp area without the New River addition would be a suitable addition to the wilderness system and includes extensive swamp and forest habitat for a variety of wildlife, including alligator, and Florida panthers. Accordingly, we suggest the name be changed to "Mud Swamp Wilderness." We also recommend a minor boundary adjustment to eliminate 2.5 acres of private lands located outside the National Forest proclamation boundary.

Wilderness Boundaries

We recommend using 100' offset from centerline of roads for wilderness boundaries which parallel those roads. This offset distance assures exclusion of most road right-of-way and occasional roadside facilities while providing some uniformity among wilderness. We do recommend using 66' offset for the Bradwell Bay addition in order to be consistent with the existing 66' offset on Bradwell Bay wilderness. We also recommend 150' offset for the west boundary of Billies Bay to avoid a powerline along FS-38 right-of-way. We can provide the committee with a set of maps denoting these recommended offsets.

Section 1 of both H.R. 9 and S. 1873 refers to the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.1131 et seq.). This could lead to confusion since the Eastern Wilderness Act is codified in 16 U.S.C. 1132. We recommend that the citation be changed to read: The Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 890).

PHOSPHATE PROVISIONS

All four bills contain major provisions regarding the phosphate mining and leasing issue on the Osceola National Forest. All bills would prohibit phosphate mining or the issuance of leases. The bills differ in the methods for determining value of the mineral interest and for compensating the lease applicants.

We have a number of major concerns about the phosphate provisions of all four bills. Because of the progress being made in reclamation technology, the costs and difficulties associated with the proposed exchanges and the likelihood that a purchase of mineral rights could result in substantial costs to the United States, we do not believe it is necessary or desirable to withdraw the Osceola National Forest from phosphate leasing, nor terminate leases through exchange or acquisition.

The leasing provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 authorize the secretary of the interior to issue exclusive 2-year prospecting permits to qualified applicants where prospecting or exploratory work is necessary to determine the existence or workability of deposits. The secretary of the interior is further authorized to renew such permits under certain circumstances. If the permittee shows the secretary that valuable deposits have been discovered, the permittee is entitled to a lease for all or any of the land under the prospecting permit.

The Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands of August 7, 1947, which authorizes leasing of minerals on certain acquired lands under the same conditions as those in the Mineral Leasing Act, specifically establishes the role of the secretary of agriculture in consenting to the leasing of mineral deposits on national forest system lands. The secretary of agriculture may prescribe conditions to insure the adequate utilization of the lands for the primary purposes for which they have been acquired. The Osceola National Forest consists of lands which were acquired under authority of the Weeks Law (36 Stat. 961, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 515).

Although the secretary of agriculture is not authorized to deny the issuance of leases, the statute permits the secretary to prescribe conditions to protect the affected area so that its primary purposes will not be lost. Pursuant to the above mentioned provisions, 92 prospecting permits covering about 144,000 acres in the Osceola National Forest were issued between 1965 and 1968. During the period from July 1969 through May 1972, 41 applications for preference right phosphate leases covering about 52,000 acres of the permitted lands were filed by four companies. No leases have yet been issued.

The standard permit issued for phosphate prospecting in the Osceola contains a list of special stipulations. Stipulation No. 3 states: "In the

event the permittee makes application for mining lease on any lands under this permit the Forest Service reserves the right to include in such mining lease special stipulations to protect surface values." It is clear from this provision that the Forest Service, at the time it consented to issuance of the prospecting permit recognized its right to reserve the authority to protect the surface of the lands in the Osceola through lease stipulations. By its signature, the permittee agreed to the terms of the permit, including the authority to exercise this reserved right by the Forest Service. These statutory and contractual authorities provide ample support for the secretary of agriculture to impose lease restrictions on the mining companies in order to protect the primary surface values in the Osceola National Forest.

In the last few months, there have been meetings with industry representatives to review newly developed reclamation technology which has been used in central Florida to reclaim phosphate mining areas. On-the-ground review of mining areas indicates that satisfactory soil conditions can be created. Application of this newly developed technology in the last several years has been satisfactory for establishment of shallow-rooted vegetation to meet reclamation requirements. Indications are strong that this technology can be extended to establish satisfactory tree growth, although there has not been time since development of the technology to test such results.

The Forest Service has developed lease stipulations that will assure affected sites are reclaimed for timber production and other resource uses and that a necessary balance between uplands and wetlands is achieved. The secretary of the interior can complete the administrative process to determine if the valuable deposit requirement for leasing has been satisfied. This determination compares all the estimated costs of developing and operating the mine with estimated revenues. The determination takes into account cost of compliance with all applicable mining, surface protection and reclamation requirements. The completion of this process will determine if economic deposits exist and thus whether the permittees are entitled to preference right leases.

Section 4(b) of S. 1873 and H.R. 9 directs the secretary of the interior to make a determination of "valuable deposit" based on the regulations in effect as of the date of lease applications (July 1969-May 1972) instead of the more stringent standards as promulgated by the

Secretary of the Interior on May 7, 1976. The earlier regulation basically states that the determination can be made without consideration of costs associated with adherence to environmental stipulations. This provision would allow that only mining costs would be used in the decision and therefore, would not be a realistic estimate of the total costs. Any determination should take into account compliance with all applicable mining, surface protection and reclamation requirements.

We have concerns about the feasibility and costs of the exchange proposed in these bills. Experience with exchanges of mineral interest indicates the process for identifying and evaluating minerals suitable for exchange is extremely time consuming and that it is difficult to reach agreement on value. Assuming the secretary of agriculture and the lease applicants can agree on terms for restoration after mining, the secretary of the interior could determine that deposits of substantial value exist.

Under S. 1873, S. 1633 and H.R. 9, a preference right applicant could obtain in exchange for his preference right and without competitive bidding, a lease of substantially equal value for another mineral. In such cases, the federal government—as well as the states in which the new leaseholds are located, primarily those in the west—will lose substantial bonus revenues, which are estimated at \$25 to 50 million. Fifty percent of such bonus revenues would have gone to the states in which the new leases are issued. Taxpayers in those affected states will lose these revenues as a result of the Florida action. They could include phosphates in Idaho, coal in Wyoming and Montana, oil and gas in Arkansas as well as in the other states. The states would suffer significant financial losses if the noncompetitive leases were given in exchange for other minerals.

By enactment of any of the bills under consideration today, the United States will also be deprived of the rentals and royalties which could have been derived from Osceola phosphate leases. There are about 100 to 120 million tons of phosphate in the Osceola National Forest having current market value of \$30 per ton. Mining the resource would return about \$150 to \$180 million in royalty payments over the life of the mines to be shared by federal government and state. There

are other costs. The United States would be denied the corporate and personal income taxes that would ensue from development of the phosphate in the Osceola National Forest.

This administration is opposed to such exchanges or purchases for the reason that the prospector accepted permits with the contractual understanding that the secretary of agriculture had the right to stipulate mining and reclamation requirements for environmental protection. No right of ownership has been conveyed by the government. Only if a determination that a valuable deposit exists does a lease applicant have a compensable right. The exchange provisions of section 4 of S. 1873 and H.R. 9 could be construed to give lease applicants an undetermined value of the phosphates by law—such value to be subject to a mineral exchange or cash. Section 4(g) gives the lease applicant an effective veto of exchange values which could result in litigation to determine the amount of cash payment.

Recently, the U.S. Department of Justice identified legal problems associated with H.R. 5161 concerning the arbitration provisions of section 4(d). We would like to point out similar legal concerns with respect to section 4 of H.R. 9 and S. 1873. It is an unresolved legal question whether an arbitration procedure establishing a legally binding determination of property values denies the owners of those rights due process under the 5th Amendment. An additional issue is whether a statute can set and limit compensation to either the exchange of interests and rights or to monetary credits to be used for the purchase of rights. Furthermore, establishment of fair market value is normally the function of the judiciary.

In summary, we oppose the provisions of these bills that would prohibit phosphate leasing on the Osceola National Forest and that would terminate leases through exchange or acquisition. The legislation could establish compensable rights for the mining companies that they do not now own and could create an artificially high price for those newly created compensable rights. Furthermore, the federal taxpayer could be required to pay the mining companies an artificially high price for these newly created rights with either cash or federally owned assets. We believe it is not necessary or desirable to withdraw the Osceola National Forest from phosphate leasing.

We note that neither of the wilderness bills includes provision for release of nonwilderness areas nor does it set specific time limits for congressional action on recommendations for additional wilderness which may be generated from the further planning process. It is the administration's position that these concepts are of such importance that no additions to the Wilderness System should be made without providing at the same time equally assured status to unroaded lands designated for multiple uses other than wilderness in RARE II, or which may be recommended for wilderness as a result of the further planning process. We, therefore, urge that language embodying these concepts be included in any Florida wilderness legislation.

Mr. Chairman, this completes my statement. I would be happy to respond to your questions.

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News Releases

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Governmental and Public Affairs

USDA SENDING TEAM TO HELP CHINA START 4-H-LIKE PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, March 26—Four Americans will leave for the People's Republic of China April 8 to help the Chinese set up a 4-H youth program similar to the one in this country.

Eugene Williams, deputy administrator for 4-H youth programs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Extension Service, said the team will work with Chinese government and university officials, community leaders and coordinators of Chinese youth programs.

Joel R. Soobitsky, 4-H youth program leader, will lead the team. He is responsible for the Extension Service's international youth programs.

Other members are:

— Ray Crabbs, a vice president of the National 4-H Council, headquartered in Washington. He was chosen for his experience in preparing proposals and developing resources and his knowledge of the relationship between the United States private sector and units of government.

— Dave Pace, a state 4-H specialist with the University of Minnesota, selected to represent the land grant colleges and universities and the nationwide Cooperative Extension Service system. He has established other international exchange programs for young people in developing countries.

— Steve Boruchowitz, a specialist in Chinese international affairs in USDA's Office of International Cooperation and Development, sponsor of the 4-H exchange program. He has established contacts with many officials in China and will be involved during and after the exchange visit in mapping long-range plans.

This will be the first USDA exchange team on rural youth programs and the first such exchange to examine the organizational management level for agricultural programs in China, Williams said.

"It seems that, like us, other countries are highly concerned with their future citizens—their youth," Williams said. "And 4-H helps give them answers and sets examples of planning for the future through

their young people. In giving this help, we are strengthening our relationships. . .and believe me, this is important."

Williams said the primary purpose of the American 4-H exchange visit is to consider adapting and designing a 4-H-type program for the youth of China, with the goal of improving that country's agricultural development through its youngsters.

Among other objectives are to help develop recommendations for the organization and management of a youth program to fit Chinese needs; to design long-range plans for future exchanges involving planners and youth; and to develop a proposal for resources needed to make long-range plans work.

"This team takes with it the many 4-H international experiences that already have resulted in country-to-country understanding and development," said Williams.

"American 4-H young people and adults have participated in exchange and training programs with other countries since 1948," he said. "Such exchanges have clearly shown that youth activities create international understanding and a sharing of agricultural and other technologies."

Today, more than 5 million youths are involved in 4-H activities in nearly 90 nations. This figure could multiply many times, said Williams, if this 4-H visit to China is as productive as expected.

Williams said the Chinese chose the 4-H working visit to discuss first from 42 proposals offered to a Chinese working team.

Sending the 4-H team to China, Williams said, is USDA's response to a request from Shen Chi-Yi, vice president of Beijing Agricultural University, for "suggestions and help. . .for organization and management methods on how to set up 4-H in the Beijing area."

Shen also is secretary of the China Association of Science and Technology and vice president of the Chinese Association of Agricultural Sciences.

"This request gave USDA's Extension Service 4-H youth program the opportunity to open a door to helping a nation which has long cherished its young people and which recognizes the importance of the future they represent," Williams said.

"We expect this beginning to have far-reaching implications for millions of young people, both in our own country and in the People's Republic of China."

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USDA'S SUPPLY-DEMAND REPORT AVAILABLE ON SUBSCRIPTION BASIS BEGINNING JUNE

WASHINGTON, March 29—Beginning in June, the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates—published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's World Agriculture Outlook Board—will be available only on a paid subscription basis.

According to Terry Barr, acting head of the World Outlook Board, this move reflects current budget constraints and a government-wide effort to recover publication costs.

The April 13 and 23 and May 11 issues of the report will include a paid subscription request form which readers may send to the Superintendent of Documents to continue to receive copies after June 1.

A limited number of issues will be provided at no cost to land-grant university libraries and to the news media, Barr said.

The subscription fee will be \$30, domestic, and \$37.50, foreign. Single copies may be purchased for \$2, domestic and \$2.50, foreign, from the Superintendent of Documents.

#

USDA AND ICC WILL NOT REQUIRE WRITTEN CONTRACTS FOR HAULING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE

WASHINGTON, March 29—The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Interstate Commerce Commission have decided not to require written contracts for the interstate movement of agricultural commodities otherwise exempt from regulation.

"To require any mandatory contract of haul, even with a minimum of regulations to implement and enforce such contracts, would result in

serious problems for the fresh fruit and vegetable industry that would not produce any meaningful benefits for the independent owner-operators," Martin F. Fitzpatrick, Jr., director of USDA's Office of Transportation, said today.

"The contract of haul is an extremely important public policy decision affecting all agricultural interests," he said.

The task group which investigated this problem, as required by Section 16 of the Motor Carrier Act of 1980, was composed of representatives of USDA's Offices of Transportation and General Counsel, and the ICC's Offices of Transportation and Analysis, Proceedings, Compliance, and Consumer Assistance, and Small Business Assistance.

The task force started with an initial working paper which raised a number of issues for discussion and set forth a sample of the type of rules that might be considered, Fitzpatrick said. In addition a series of hearings were held in seven cities across the nation during January 1981.

Finally, the commission conducted independent surveys of drivers and owner-operators to insure that their input was adequately received and analyzed, Fitzpatrick said.

#

USDA PROTECTS 11 NEW SEED VARIETIES

WASHINGTON, March 29—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued certificates of protection for new varieties of alfalfa, garden bean, soybean, common wheat, white clover, perennial ryegrass and tobacco.

Thomas H. Porter, an official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said owners of the new varieties will have the exclusive right to reproduce their products in the United States for 18 years. Certificates of protection are granted, he said, after a review of the breeders' records and their claims that each new variety is novel, uniform and stable.

Among the newly protected varieties are Answer alfalfa developed by North American Plant Breeders, Mission, Kan., Flo garden bean

developed by Asgrow Seed Co., Kalamazoo, Mich., Star white clover—the first variety of white clover ever to be issued—by Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station, Moscow, Idaho, and Elka perennial ryegrass by Cebeco-Handelsraad, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

North American Plants Breeders, Mission, Kan., also received certificates of protection for three varieties of soybean—AP 350, HS 235 and AP 55—and for Hawk common wheat.

Northrup King Co., Minneapolis, Minn., also received certificates for new varieties of common wheat, 812 and 771.

Coker's Pedigreed Seed Co., Hartsville, S.C., received a certificate for Coker 51 tobacco.

The white clover, tobacco, AP 55 soybean and Hawk common wheat will be sold by variety name only as a class of certified seed.

The plant variety protection program is administered by AMS. It provides marketing protection to developers of new and distinctive seed-reproduced plants ranging from farm crops to flowers.

#

USDA RAISES FEES FOR GRADING LIVESTOCK FOR COMMODITY MARKETS

WASHINGTON, March 29—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has increased the fees it charges for grading and certifying livestock traded in commodity markets.

The fee increase of \$3.20 an hour for work in regular time was put into effect on an interim basis in November during a period in which the public was invited to comment. No comments were received.

Thomas H. Porter, an official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the increase is necessary because of increases in costs of conducting the grading and certification program.

Fees charged will be \$23.20 per hour for work performed between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Grading and certification work performed on Saturday, Sunday and between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. Monday through Friday is \$28.20 per hour. Work performed on legal holidays is \$46.40.

Livestock is graded and certified on deliveries made to settle futures contracts for the Chicago Mercantile and Mid-America commodity exchanges and on livestock financed through the Commodity Credit Corporation for export.

#

USDA EXTENDS MATURITY DATE ON 1980-CROP SOYBEAN LOANS

WASHINGTON, March 29—Producers with 1980-crop soybeans under loan have the option to extend their loans for an extra year, Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block said today.

"This option is being offered because prices for soybeans are currently low," Block said.

Producers extending their loans for an additional year will be charged an interest rate of 12.25 percent. This reflects the increased cost to the Commodity Credit Corporation of borrowing from the U.S. Treasury. Loans for 1980-crop soybeans were previously extended at an 11.5 percent interest rate.

All producers with 1980-crop loans in an outstanding status are eligible, Block said.

Producers wishing to extend their loans should contact their county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office, he said.

#

USDA GRAIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO MEET APRIL 14

WASHINGTON, March 29—The Federal Grain Inspection Service Advisory Committee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will hold its third meeting April 14.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will begin at 8:30 a.m. in room 2096 of USDA's south building, 14th and Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C.

Committee members will report on current issues concerning the grain trade, such as: conflicts of interest involving boards of trade and chambers of commerce operating as official agencies; and whether the term "surveillance" better describes what is now referred to as "supervision" of official agency activities by the Federal Grain Inspection Service.

Other committee reports will cover user fees for administrative and supervisory costs; research activities; sorghum and sunflower standards; and insect infestations in grain.

Public participation at the meeting will be limited to written statements submitted before or at the meeting, unless otherwise requested by the committee chairman.

Written statements and requests to address the committee should be made to Kenneth A. Gilles, administrator, FGIS, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Phone: (202) 382-0219.

The 12-member committee, representing a cross-section of the grain industry, was appointed for a 2-year term beginning in November 1981, to discuss ways to assure the efficient and economical movement of grain as mandated by the U.S. Grain Standards Act of 1976.

#

USDA ASSUMES MEAT-POULTRY COMPLIANCE RESPONSIBILITIES IN FOUR STATES

WASHINGTON, March 29—Effective March 29, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will assume responsibility for the compliance functions of the federal meat inspection programs in Arkansas, Michigan, Idaho and Rhode Island and the federal poultry inspection program in Rhode Island.

According to Donald L. Houston, administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, in 1981 USDA assumed responsibility for conducting inspection at slaughter and processing plants in these states after it had been advised the states could not continue funding their own programs. Federal inspection laws require a state to give up its inspection and/or compliance program if it cannot enforce requirements at least equal to those at the federal level.

This action means that firms handling meat or poultry outside federally inspected plants—such as brokers, renderers, animal food manufacturers and warehouses—will have to register with USDA and be subject to recordkeeping and other compliance requirements. Existing licensing or registration programs in the four states will not be affected.

Notice of this action will be published in the March 29 Federal Register.

#

JOHN E. LEE, JR., NAMED ADMINISTRATOR OF USDA'S ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

WASHINGTON, March 26—John E. Lee, Jr., has been selected administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture William G. Leshner announced today.

"John Lee brings to this job a particularly strong set of administrative and research skills," Leshner said. "The information ERS provides will be vital to agriculture in the 1980's. I look forward to working closely with Lee to formulate an innovative research program for this important agency."

The Economic Research Service is a main source of USDA's outlook and situation information and is responsible for a broad range of research and analysis on domestic and foreign agriculture and U.S. rural communities.

A career USDA employee, Lee joined the department as an economist in 1962 and has held a variety of key management positions in the agency. He has been acting administrator of the Economic Research Service since October 1981 and previously served as director of the agency's national economics division.

Lee, 48, received B.S. and M.S. degrees from Auburn University and a Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University. He has written more than 40 publications and has served as vice president of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association. He is an active member

of the American Agricultural Economics Association and a number of other professional organizations.

Born in Pickens County, Ala., Lee was raised on a crop-livestock farm he helped manage while in college. His family is still actively engaged in farming.

Lee and his wife, Alice, live in Annandale, Virginia. They have three children.

#

SPINACH-HIGH FIBER DIET MAY BE A PROBLEM, SAYS USDA SCIENTIST

LAS VEGAS, Nev., March 29—Spinach, a food high in oxalic acid, can lower the body's supply of zinc if it is eaten with a high-fiber diet, June L. Kelsay, a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist, said today.

Zinc is essential for normal growth and functioning of the human body.

Kelsay told a meeting of the American Chemical Society here that the oxalic acid in spinach combines with zinc and calcium in the diet to form insoluble salts which may make them unavailable to the body.

Oxalic acid is a colorless, crystalline acid occurring in a number of food plants such as tea, spinach, amaranth, and many nuts, including peanuts, pecans and walnuts.

Kelsay, a research nutritionist for USDA's Agricultural Research Service, works at the Human Nutrition Research Center, Beltsville, MD.

She reported that 12 male volunteers, between 34 and 58 years old, were given carefully analyzed nutritionally complete diets containing varying amounts of fiber and oxalic acid. The diets consisted of spinach with low-fiber foods; spinach with enough fruits and vegetables to qualify as a moderately high-fiber diet; and cauliflower (low in oxalic acid) with a moderately high-fiber diet.

Each special menu was eaten by four volunteers for 28 days. The diets then were rotated among the volunteers so that at the end of the study all 12 men had eaten each of the diets for 28 days.

After four weeks of eating four ounces (110 grams) of spinach every other day, volunteers on the high-fiber diet were excreting five percent more zinc and slightly more calcium and magnesium than was contained in the food they were eating. This effect was not apparent with the spinach low-fiber diet or the cauliflower moderately high-fiber diet, she said.

Duplicate samples of the food intake, as well as feces and urine, were collected during the third and fourth week of each 28-day period. Samples of each were pooled and the mineral content analyzed by atomic absorption spectrophotometry.

Oxalic acid's reduction of essential minerals from the diet is not a common problem in the United States, Kelsay said. It could be a problem in less developed countries, however, where diets are normally high in fiber as well as greens, such as spinach and amaranth.

#

RURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING SET

WASHINGTON, March 29—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Advisory Council on Rural Development will hold its first meeting here April 14-15.

Frank W. Naylor, Jr., under secretary of agriculture for small community and rural development, and co-chairman of the council, said the agenda would include various issues affecting smaller communities, such as the impact of new federalism on rural areas.

"The council is expected to play a leading role in assisting USDA's Office of Rural Development Policy develop hearings and other ways the USDA can determine the needs and desires of rural communities," Naylor said. "In addition, the group will be briefed on regulatory reform and private sector initiatives."

Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block appointed the 22-member council last month, saying: "The council will assist me in identifying rural problems and in supporting administration efforts in rural development. It also will provide state and local rural development

groups with a forum for the discussion of important issues affecting the lives of rural people."

Block said he would appoint another co-chairman at a later time. Willard Phillips, Jr., acting director, USDA's Office of Rural Development Policy, will serve as executive secretary to the advisory council.

The council will meet in Room 107-A in USDA's Administration Building, 14th St. and Independence Ave. S.W.

#

USDA REVISES SYSTEM FOR COLLECTING ANIMAL DISEASE DATA

WASHINGTON, March 30—Beginning April 4, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will update its system for collecting data on livestock diseases to give a better picture of the incidence and geographic distribution of livestock diseases, according to Donald L. Houston, administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service.

"The new animal disease reporting system will give a better picture so we can determine if a disease is still a problem in a specific group of animals," Houston said. "It is no longer enough to know that a disease occurs in an entire species, such as cattle, hogs or sheep. We need to have a breakdown by age and sex of animals as well."

The new reporting system replaces one which furnished data for a species as a whole, such as cattle. Now, information on cattle will be collected for steers, heifers, cows, bulls and calves. Other species, such as swine and sheep, will be broken down similarly.

"The new system will provide valuable information which can be used as a basis for developing more efficient and effective methods of meat inspection," Houston said.

A critical part of meat inspection is the checking of every carcass and its viscera for specific disease conditions which could present a danger to those who eat the meat. With better information on animal diseases, Houston said, meat inspection can be improved because procedures can be modified according to the diseases likely to be present.

"Further, if we suspect a problem in a certain geographic area, this new system can be used to conduct a special survey of animals slaughtered in that area," Houston said.

The information is collected on forms filled out weekly by USDA inspectors in federally inspected livestock slaughtering plants. USDA will make the data available to the public in quarterly reports.

USDA provides inspection in 1,400 plants slaughtering 131 million head of livestock annually.

#

BEEF LIVER, TURKEY, CHICKEN, WHOLE HAM, PORK SHOULDER AND GROUND BEEF BEST MEAT BUYS

WASHINGTON, March 30—Beef liver, turkey, chicken, whole ham, pork shoulder and ground beef were found to be the best meat buys in a recent study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Prices in the study of selected types and cuts of meat, poultry and fish and meat alternates were for four consecutive weeks in February 1982 in five Washington, D.C., area supermarkets.

Some meat alternates—such as dry beans and peas, peanut butter and eggs—were also good buys in protein, according to Esther Winterfeldt, administrator of USDA's Human Nutrition Information Service.

"These foods also provide certain other nutrients for which meat, poultry and fish are valued," Winterfeldt said.

The study compared the costs of 20 grams of protein—about one-third the recommended allowance for a young man—from selected meats and alternates.

"While a three-ounce serving of cooked lean beef, pork, lamb, veal, chicken, turkey or fish provides about 20 grams of protein or more, it takes well over a serving of some alternates and meat products to get 20 grams," she said. "For example, it takes one and one-half cups of cooked dry beans, four frankfurters or 10 slices of bacon to make 20 grams of protein."

Winterfeldt said consumers can use the following tables to obtain comparable costs for meat and alternates in other locations by multiplying the part of the market unit figure by the local price per unit.

**AVERAGE COST OF 3 OUNCES OF COOKED LEAN MEAT,
POULTRY AND FISH IN FEBRUARY 1982 AT
FIVE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA SUPERMARKETS**

Food:	Average Part of Pound		
	Retail Price	for 3-oz.	Cost of 3-oz.
	Per Pound	cooked lean*	of cooked lean
Beef liver	\$0.99	.27	\$0.27
Turkey, ready-to-cook	.76	.41	.31
Chicken, whole, ready-to-cook	.68	.55	.37
Ham, whole, bone in	1.12	.35	.39
Ground beef, regular	1.50	.28	.42
Pork shoulder, smoked, bone in	.99	.46	.46
Ground beef, lean	1.80	.26	.47
Ocean perch, filet, frozen	2.04	.27	.55
Chicken breasts	1.38	.40	.55
Ham, canned	2.27	.25	.57
Haddock, filet	2.29	.27	.62
Rump roast of beef, bone out	2.17	.34	.74
Pork loin roast, bone in	1.46	.51	.74
Chuck roast of beef, bone in	1.75	.45	.79
Pork chops, center cut	2.14	.45	.96
Round beefsteak, bone in	3.19	.34	1.08
Sirloin beefsteak, bone in	2.94	.43	1.26
Lamb chops, loin	3.15	.46	1.45
Rib roast of beef, bone in	3.26	.45	1.47
Porterhouse beefsteak, bone in	3.96	.52	2.06

*Multiply this figure by the local cost per unit to obtain local cost.

**AVERAGE COST OF 20 GRAMS OF PROTEIN FROM MEATS
AND MEAT ALTERNATES IN FEBRUARY 1982 AT
FIVE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA SUPERMARKETS**

Food:	Market Unit	Part of Market Unit Price Per Unit ¹	To Give 20 Grams of Protein ²	Cost of 20 grams of protein
Bread, white enriched ³	22 oz.	\$0.44	.37	\$0.16
Dry beans	1 lb.	.66	.24	.16
Beef liver	1 lb.	.99	.24	.24
Turkey, ready-to-cook	1 lb.	.76	.33	.25
Eggs, large	1 doz.	1.00	.28	.28
Chicken, whole, ready- to-cook	1 lb.	.68	.42	.29
Peanut butter	12 oz.	1.30	.23	.30
Bean soup, canned	11.25 oz.	.38	.82	.31
Milk, whole, fluid ⁴	half gal.	.99	.31	.31
Pork shoulder, smoked, bone in	1 lb.	.99	.32	.32
Ham, whole, bone in	1 lb.	1.12	.30	.34
Tuna, canned	6.5 oz.	.82	.44	.36
Chicken breasts	1 lb.	1.38	.27	.37
Sardines, canned	3.75 oz.	.49	.86	.42
Ground beef, lean	1 lb.	1.80	.25	.45
Frankfurters	1 lb.	1.22	.39	.48
Pork loin roast, bone in	1 lb.	1.46	.33	.48
American process cheese	8 oz.	1.22	.40	.49
Pork sausage	1 lb.	1.11	.48	.53
Ham, canned	1 lb.	2.27	.24	.54
Rump roast of beef, bone out	1 lb.	2.17	.26	.56
Bacon, sliced	1 lb.	1.14	.52	.59
Chuck roast of beef, bone in	1 lb.	1.75	.35	.61

**AVERAGE COST OF 20 GRAMS OF PROTEIN FROM MEATS
AND MEAT ALTERNATES IN FEBRUARY 1982 AT
FIVE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA SUPERMARKETS**

Food:	Market Unit	Part of Market Unit Price Per Unit ¹	To Give 20 Grams of Protein	Cost of 20 grams of protein
Ocean perch, filet, frozen	1 lb.	2.04	.31	.63
Bologna	8 oz.	.91	.75	.68
Haddock filet, frozen	1 lb.	2.29	.31	.71
Round beefsteak, bone in	1 lb.	3.19	.23	.73
Pork chops, center cut	1 lb.	2.14	.35	.75
Sirloin beefsteak, bone in	1 lb.	2.94	.28	.82
Lamb chops, loin	1 lb.	3.15	.32	1.01
Rib roast of beef, bone in	1 lb.	3.26	.33	1.08
Porterhouse beefsteak, bone in	1 lb.	3.96	.34	1.35

¹Prices for processed items are for the least costly brand in the market unit specified.

²One-third of the daily amount recommended for a 20-year-old man. Assumes all meat is eaten.

³Bread and other grain products—such as pasta and rice—are frequently used with a small amount of meat, poultry, fish or cheese as main dishes in economy meals. This way the high-quality protein in meat and cheese enhances the lower quality protein in cereal products.

⁴Although milk is not used to replace meat in meals, it is an economical source of good-quality protein.

#

**PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF FOOD ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM RESULTS FOR JANUARY 1982**

WASHINGTON, March 30—Preliminary estimates of participation in the federal-state food assistance programs for the month of January, with comparisons to the previous month and to the same month of last year, were announced today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service. They are:

	January 1981	December 1981	January 1982
THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM:			
People participating this month (millions)	22.5	21.9	22.1
Value in bonus coupons (millions)	\$935.6	\$867.3	\$866.8
Average bonus per person	\$41.66	\$39.57	\$39.18
THE FAMILY FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM:			
Number of projects in operation	69	78	78
People participating this month (thousands)	71.3	71.0	72.0
THE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM (WIC):			
People participating this month (millions)	2.241	2.047	2.054
Federal food costs (millions) ^a	\$63.8	\$57.0	\$57.2
THE COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM:			
Number of projects in operation	21	26	26
People participating this month (thousands)	113.8	119.6	118.2

	January 1981	December 1981	January 1982
THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM:			
Number of schools taking part ^b	93,306	90,717	90,717
Children participating this month (millions)	26.1	23.4	23.3
Children reached with free or reduced-priced lunches this month (millions)	12.6	11.5	11.5
Percentage of lunches served free	40.3	41.5	41.8
Percentage of lunches served at reduced price	7.6	7.1	7.3
THE SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM:			
Number of schools taking part ^b	34,224	33,634	33,634
Children participating this month (millions)	3.8	3.4	3.3
Percentage of breakfasts served free or at reduced price	86.6	88.2	88.9
THE CHILD CARE FOOD PROGRAM:			
Number of outlets taking part	57,300	67,400	68,200
Children participating this month (thousands)	794.5	842.5	846.8

^aDue to monthly fluctuations, the federal administrative expenditures are excluded from this program.

^bThese data are collected semi-annually (October and March). Figures for the latest available month (October) are listed.

#

USDA EASES IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON AUSTRALIAN APPLES

WASHINGTON, March 31—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will no longer require fumigation of all shipments of apples from Australia.

"In the past, we have been concerned about infestations of insects from the fruit-leaf roller complex, which are not found in the United States," said Harvey L. Ford, deputy administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "But the Australians have greatly reduced this danger through their control programs."

Instead, Ford said U.S. agricultural inspectors will provide the necessary protection against foreign pests by inspecting a statistically selected sampling from each shipment, and then requiring fumigation if pests are found.

Ending the previous requirements, imposed during the mid-1970's, will cut costs for both the government and the importers, according to Ford. The earlier rules called for treatment with methyl bromide, he said, and when necessary the same compound will be used.

Ford said Australian apples represent only a small percentage of the apples imported to the United States from all countries combined. In fiscal year 1981, 810 metric tons of Australian apples valued at \$413,000 entered this country. During the same period, 80,000 metric tons valued at \$40 million came to the U.S. from worldwide markets.#

USDA RELEASES COST OF FOOD AT HOME FOR FEBRUARY

WASHINGTON, March 31—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today released its monthly update of the weekly cost of food at home for February 1982.

USDA's Human Nutrition Information Service computes the cost of food at home for four food plans—thrifty, low-cost, moderate-cost and liberal.

Esther Winterfeldt, administrator of the Human Nutrition Information Service, said the plans consist of foods that together provide well-balanced meals and snacks for a week.

USDA assumes all food is bought at the store and fixed at home. Costs do not include alcoholic beverages, pet food, soap, cigarettes, paper goods and other nonfood items bought at the store.

"USDA costs are only guides to spending," Winterfeldt said. "Families may spend more or less, depending on such factors as where they buy their food, how carefully they plan and buy, whether some food is produced at home, what foods the family likes and how much food is prepared at home.

"Most families will find the moderate-cost or low-cost plan suitable," she said. "The thrifty plan, which USDA uses to set the coupon allotment in the food stamp program, is for families with less money for food. Families with unlimited resources might use the liberal plan."

Details of the four food plans are described in Home and Garden Bulletin No. 94, "Family Food Budgeting. . .for Good Meals and Good Nutrition," which may be purchased for \$2. each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Cost Of Food At Home For A Week In February 1982

	Plans			
	Thrifty	Low-cost	Moderate-cost	Liberal
Families:				
Family of 2 (20-54 years)	\$34.00	\$43.90	\$55.00	\$65.70
Family of 2 (55 years and over)	30.70	39.30	48.60	58.00
Family of 4 with preschool children	48.30	61.80	77.00	91.90
Family of 4 with elementary school children	58.20	74.60	93.50	111.60
Individuals in four-person families:				
Children:				
1-2 years	7.90	10.00	12.30	14.60
3-5 years	9.50	11.90	14.70	17.60
6-8 years	12.10	15.40	19.30	23.00
9-11 years	15.20	19.30	24.20	28.90

Cost Of Food At Home For A Week In February 1982
Continued from previous page

Females:				
12-19 years	14.40	18.30	22.60	26.90
20-54 years	13.90	17.90	22.20	26.40
55 and over	12.70	16.20	20.00	23.70
Males:				
12-14 years	16.20	20.40	25.50	30.40
15-19 years	17.70	22.50	28.10	33.70
20-54 years	17.00	22.00	27.80	33.30
55 and over	15.20	19.50	24.20	29.00

To estimate your family food costs

- For members eating all meals at home—or carried from home—use the amounts shown.
- For members eating some meals out, deduct 5 percent from the amount shown for each meal not eaten at home. Thus, for a person eating lunch out five days a week, subtract 25 percent, or one-fourth the cost shown.
- For guests, add 5 percent of the amount shown for the proper age group for each meal.

Costs in the second part of the chart are for individuals in four-person families. If your family has more or less than four, total the "individual" figures and make these adjustments, because larger families tend to buy and use food more economically than smaller ones:

- For a one-person family, add 20 percent.
- For a two-person family, add 10 percent.
- For a three-person family, add 5 percent.

#

MARCH 26 ACREAGE REDUCTION REPORT SHOWS 73.5 MILLION ACRES ENROLLED

WASHINGTON, March 31—Farmers have signed up in the 1982 acreage reduction programs 73.5 million acres of feed grain, rice, upland cotton and wheat base acreage according to figures released

today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The enrolled acreage represents 32.6 percent of the 226 million acres of total base acreage.

Last week, USDA reported 48.4 million acres had been enrolled.

The signup, which continues through April 16, is required before farmers are eligible for program benefits such as Commodity Credit Corporation loans, target price protection and—for wheat and feed grain participants—eligibility for the grain reserve.

Base acreage enrolled through March 26 includes 33.9 million under the feed grain program, 1.5 million under the rice program, 5.4 million under the upland cotton program and 32.7 million under the wheat program.

Farmers who sign up to participate in the acreage reduction programs for upland cotton, rice and wheat agree to reduce their base acreage of these commodities by at least 15 percent while feed grain producers will voluntarily reduce their base acreage by 10 percent. The acreage taken out of production will be devoted to a conservation use.

The 1982-crop national average loan rates are: barley, \$2.08 per bushel; corn, \$2.55 per bushel; oats, \$1.31 per bushel; sorghum, \$2.42 per bushel; wheat, \$3.55 per bushel; rice, \$8.14 per hundredweight; upland cotton, \$0.5708 per pound.

Reserve loan rates are: barley, \$2.37 per bushel; corn, \$2.90 per bushel; oats, \$1.49 per bushel; sorghum, \$2.75 per bushel; wheat, \$4.00 per bushel.

Target prices for the 1982 crops are: barley, \$2.60; corn, \$2.70; oats, \$1.50; sorghum, \$2.60; wheat, \$4.05; rice, \$10.85; upland cotton, \$0.71.

#

CONTAGIOUS EQUINE METRITIS FOUND IN HORSES ON KENTUCKY FARM

WASHINGTON, March 31—U.S. Department of Agriculture veterinarians have confirmed the presence of contagious equine metritis in three mares on Spendthrift Farm near Lexington, Ky.

John K. Atwell, deputy administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said this is the first outbreak of the venereal

disease of horses in the United States since the disease was first diagnosed on a breeding farm near Columbia, Mo., in April 1979.

"State and federal veterinarians are currently on the scene evaluating the outbreak to determine its extent," Atwell said. "They will take all measures necessary to prevent spread of the disease."

A state quarantine has been imposed on the farm and federal quarantines will be placed as necessary until it is learned how the disease was introduced despite strict sanitary rules being applied to breeding age horses imported from infected countries.

Contagious equine metritis is a highly transmissible bacterial disease which was reported for the first time in 1977 in Great Britain. It has been found in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, West Germany, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom.

#

USDA EXTENDS MATURITY DATE ON CERTAIN 1980 AND 1981 CROP LOANS

WASHINGTON, April 1—Producers with certain 1980 and 1981 crop commodity loans now have the option to extend their loans for an extra year, according to Under Secretary of Agriculture Seeley Lodwick.

"This option is being offered because prices for these commodities are currently low," Lodwick said.

The option applies to all 1980-crop barley, corn, oats, grain sorghum and wheat loans, and all 1981-crop barley, oats, rye and wheat loans. All producers with outstanding loans on these commodities are eligible, Lodwick said.

Producers extending their 1980-crop loans for an additional year will be charged an interest rate of 12.25 percent through Dec. 31, 1982. This rate will be subject to change Jan. 1, 1983, to reflect the cost to the Commodity Credit Corporation of borrowing from the U.S. Treasury.

Extended 1981-crop loans will continue to bear interest at a rate applicable to the loan. Interest on 1981-crop loans is calculated to reflect the CCC's cost of borrowing from the U.S. Treasury.

Producers wishing to extend their loans should contact their county office of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Lodwick said.

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CCC LOAN INTEREST RATE DECREASED TO 13.875 PERCENT

WASHINGTON, April 1—Commodity and farm storage facility loans disbursed in April by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation will carry a 13.875 percent interest rate, Everett Rank, executive vice president of the CCC, announced today.

The new rate, down from 14.875 percent, reflects the interest rate charged CCC by the U.S. Treasury in April, Rank said.

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SORGHUM FARMERS TO RECEIVE 1981 DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS; NO CORN PAYMENTS NECESSARY

WASHINGTON, April 2—Sorghum producers will receive an estimated \$200 million in deficiency payments on their 1981 crop, according to Everett Rank, administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

There will be no 1981-crop deficiency payments made to corn producers as the five-month weighted average market price was \$2.43, 3 cents above the target level of \$2.40 per bushel, Rank said.

Sorghum deficiency payments are required under the 1981 feed grain program because the average market price received by sorghum farmers during the first five months of the marketing year—which for sorghum is October through February—was below the established target price level of \$2.55 per bushel.

Under the 1981 program, eligible sorghum producers receive the difference between the \$2.55 target level and the higher of either the national average \$2.28 loan rate or the five-month national weighted average market price of \$2.22. Thus, eligible sorghum producers will be

paid 27 cents per bushel for their 1981 crop, the difference between the loan and target levels, the maximum possible payment rate.

Deficiency payments will be made to sorghum farmers who reported their 1981-crop acreage and filed an application for payment with their local office of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. These offices also will issue payment checks as soon as possible after April 10, Rank said.

The final 1981 national program acreage for corn was revised from the preliminary estimate of 90.1 million acres to 80.5 million. The sorghum preliminary national program acreage was revised from 15.4 million acres to 14.3 million.

The national program acreage represents the number of acres of a crop needed to meet estimated demand and assure desirable carryover levels, Rank said.

Factors associated with the decline in the national program acreages were a sharp decrease in projected corn exports and a 20 percent reduction in projected sorghum feed use, Rank said.

The allocation factor for corn is 97 percent and for sorghum 99 percent. The allocation factor is computed by dividing the national program acreage for a crop by the harvested acreage.

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USDA ADVISES COOKING FRESH PORK TO 170 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT THROUGHOUT

WASHINGTON, April 2—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today advised consumers and restaurateurs to make certain all fresh pork products are cooked to a consistent temperature throughout of 170 degrees Fahrenheit—77 degrees Celsius—to destroy trichinae organisms that might be present.

Donald L. Houston, administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, said a study—done by USDA's Agricultural Research Service and soon to be published—confirms that live trichinae can survive "rapid" cooking methods such as microwaving unless all parts of the meat are cooked to 170 degrees F.

"However, he said, "it is difficult in a home or restaurant kitchen to assure uniform heat distribution when fresh pork is cooked by microwaves or other quick methods."

The USDA study, which was limited to pork chops and included no roasts or fresh hams, was conducted using industrial microwave ovens which are more powerful and cook somewhat faster than models sold for home use.

"This problem does not represent a consequential public health concern," he said.

"There have been no reported cases of illness from pork cooked in microwave ovens, and the public can have every confidence that its pork supply is wholesome and nutritious. Nonetheless, we feel people must be informed that a potential problem exists so individuals can take precautionary steps if they wish to do so."

Houston said approximately one-tenth of one percent of the 80 million swine slaughtered annually contain the parasitic worms and only about 100 to 120 cases of trichinosis in humans are reported annually.

Many of the reported illnesses result from consumption of bear meat or from intentionally undercooked pork, he said.

Houston said microwave and other rapid cooking presents a special problem because heat may not be evenly distributed throughout foods. He said the "cold spots" that result can harbor infectious trichinae organisms that might be present in fresh pork.

Even when other "rapid" methods—such as deep-fat frying or charbroiling—are used to complete the cooking process of microwaved pork, the trichinae still may survive, he said.

Houston said USDA is recommending to the microwave industry a thorough review of its recommended cooking methods and recipes for pork.

"Meanwhile, consumers may want to cook fresh pork by a method other than microwaving to assure there are no live trichinae," he said. "This will prevent trichinosis."

The USDA study shows infective trichinae survived when pork chops from experimentally infected swine were cooked by microwave to a temperature of 170 degrees F. at the center point of the meat, and also when chops were partially cooked by microwaves and further cooked by deep-fat frying to above 170 degrees F.

Survivability in these trials was related to uneven heat distribution throughout the meat, the researchers concluded. The live trichinae were found in composite samples comprising several parts of each chop.

Houston said scientific studies, including recent work by USDA researchers, have confirmed that trichinae organisms are destroyed at a temperature of 137 degrees F in the laboratory and in regulated commercial meat processing facilities where the product is cooked slowly at carefully maintained temperatures. But higher temperatures are required for microwave and other rapid cooking methods because one or even several temperature probes may not reveal "cold spots," he said.

"It is prudent to cook all fresh pork products to a consistent internal temperature of 170 degrees F, regardless of the cooking method used," Houston said. "This way, consumers can be absolutely certain trichinae organisms are destroyed. Some popular cookbooks recently have recommended internal temperatures as low as 140 degrees F."

On May 8, 1981, as a result of preliminary studies by USDA and Dr. William Zimmermann, of Iowa State University, USDA warned consumers to microwave pork to a temperature of 170 degrees F throughout.

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